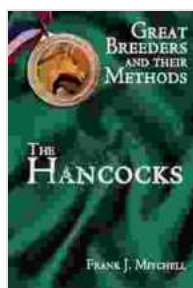


# Great Breeders and Their Methods: The Hancocks - A Masterpiece of Thoroughbred Breeding History



## Great Breeders and Their Methods: The Hancocks

by Frank J. Mitchell

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2832 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 298 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader: Supported  
Item Weight : 1.58 pounds  
Dimensions : 5.35 x 0.79 x 8.9 inches



## **The Hancock Dynasty**

The Hancock family has played a pivotal role in the development of the Thoroughbred breed for over two centuries. Their legacy is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence, an unwavering commitment to bloodline purity, and a deep understanding of the art of breeding racehorses.

## **A Foundation of Quality**

The Hancock dynasty began with John Hancock, a wealthy British sporting enthusiast who established a breeding program at his estate in England in the mid-18th century. Hancock's passion for racing and his keen eye for bloodlines led him to acquire some of the finest Thoroughbreds of his time, including the legendary racehorse Matchem.

## **The Golden Age of Breeding**

John Hancock's son, also named John, expanded the family's breeding operation and cemented their reputation as preeminent breeders during the "Golden Age of Thoroughbred Breeding" in the 19th century. The Hancocks' horses dominated racetracks around the world, winning countless races and establishing a dynasty that would shape the future of the sport.

## **The Hancock Method**

The Hancock method of breeding was based on a belief in the importance of pedigree and bloodline purity. The Hancocks conducted meticulous research to identify and breed from the most exceptional Thoroughbreds, following a strict linebreeding program to maintain the genetic integrity of their stock.

### **Linebreeding**

Linebreeding is a breeding strategy that involves mating horses from the same family line, bringing together desirable traits and reducing genetic diversity. The Hancocks used linebreeding to concentrate the bloodlines of their most successful racehorses, creating horses with exceptional athleticism, speed, and stamina.

### **Outcrossing**

While the Hancocks primarily focused on linebreeding, they also occasionally introduced new blood into their breeding program through outcrossing. Outcrossing involves mating horses from different family lines, bringing in fresh genetic material to improve overall quality and avoid inbreeding depression.

### **Exceptional Horses**

The Hancock method produced some of the most legendary Thoroughbreds in history, including:

- **Lexington:** One of the greatest American Thoroughbreds ever, undefeated in 14 starts and known for his speed and endurance.

- **Man o' War:** Considered one of the greatest racehorses of all time, known for his fiery temperament and incredible athleticism.
- **War Admiral:** A Triple Crown winner and one of the most dominant racehorses of his generation, renowned for his strength and stamina.

## **A Lasting Legacy**

The Hancock family's influence on Thoroughbred breeding continues to this day. Breeders around the world still study the Hancock method and strive to emulate their success. The Thoroughbred breed owes a great debt to the Hancocks, whose passion and dedication have shaped its history and legacy.

## **Book Recommendation: Great Breeders and Their Methods**

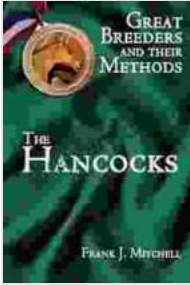
For those interested in delving deeper into the fascinating history and methods of the Hancock family, I highly recommend the book "Great Breeders and Their Methods: The Hancocks" by John Kynoch. This extensively researched and beautifully written book provides a comprehensive account of the Hancock dynasty, their breeding practices, and the extraordinary horses they produced.

Whether you are a Thoroughbred enthusiast, a breeder, or simply fascinated by the art of animal husbandry, "Great Breeders and Their Methods: The Hancocks" is an essential read. It is a masterpiece of horsemanship literature, preserving the legacy of one of the most influential families in the history of Thoroughbred breeding.

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